

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1362

To authorize the Port Passenger Accelerated Service System (PortPASS) as a permanent program for land border inspection under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the Port Passenger Accelerated Service System (PortPASS) as a permanent program for land border inspection under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Secure and Fast Entry
5 at the Border Act of 2003” or the “SAFE Border Act
6 of 2003” .

7 **SEC. 2. PORTPASS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Port Passenger Accelerated Service System
2 (PortPASS) is a group of pre-inspection technology
3 programs used at ports of entry to facilitate the
4 speedy passage of low-risk travelers.

5 (2) Ports of entry constitute vital links in our
6 Nation's economic and social life.

7 (3) Southern and northern land border inspec-
8 tions combined comprise over 80 percent of the total
9 number of inspections performed at all ports of
10 entry.

11 (4) PortPASS programs strengthen our borders
12 without impeding legitimate traffic needed for our
13 Nation's economic health.

14 (5) Secure Electronic Network for Travelers
15 Rapid Inspection (SENTRI), a PortPASS program,
16 incorporates an extensive screening process to move
17 pre-screened, low-risk travelers quickly and safely
18 through the inspection process while preserving bor-
19 der security. There are currently over 45,000
20 SENTRI participants.

21 (6) PortPASS programs must expand their ex-
22 isting infrastructure to meet border management
23 issues. The success and effectiveness of the pro-
24 grams demonstrate they are deserving of increased

1 resource allocation to meet growth and security chal-
2 lenges.

3 (b) AMENDMENT TO IMMIGRATION AND NATION-
4 ALITY ACT.—Section 286(q)(1)(A) of the Immigration
5 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(q)(1)(A)) is amended
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(iv) The Port Passenger Accelerated Service System
8 (PortPASS) is authorized as a permanent land border in-
9 spection project under this subparagraph.”.

10 (c) SENTRI PARTICIPATION APPROVALS.—

11 (1) EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF SENTRI AP-
12 PROVALS FOR PARTICIPATION.—Notwithstanding
13 any other provision of law, and beginning not later
14 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this
15 Act, approval shall be issued for participation in the
16 Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid In-
17 spection (SENTRI), carried out by the Bureau of
18 Citizenship and Immigration Services within the De-
19 partment of Homeland Security, for non-commercial
20 vehicle border crossers. Such approval shall be valid
21 for not less than 2 years.

22 (2) PRECLUSION OF CERTAIN PERSONS.—Any
23 person convicted of a felony or under active criminal
24 investigation shall be prohibited from participating

1 in the Secure Electronic Network for Travelers
2 Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) program.

3 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
4 Congress that—

5 (1) the Department of Homeland Security must
6 ensure the permanence of the Port Passenger Accel-
7 erated Service System (PortPASS) in the transition
8 of PortPASS from the Department of Justice to the
9 Department of Homeland Security;

10 (2) all land PortPASS programs should utilize
11 interoperable technology to offer program enrollees
12 increased access at all participating dedicated com-
13 muter lanes;

14 (3) the Secretary of Homeland Security
15 should—

16 (A) appoint dedicated staff with appro-
17 priate training and instruction to the Secure
18 Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspec-
19 tion (SENTRI) program;

20 (B) increase staffing under the SENTRI
21 program for actual inspections and necessary
22 administrative tasks; and

23 (C) allocate greater resources to the pro-
24 gram to facilitate and expedite the processing of
25 applications for SENTRI; and

1 (4) the Secretary of Homeland Security should
2 create a pre-inspection low-risk traveler dedicated
3 commuter lane for pedestrian land border crossers.

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